

Claims

What is claimed:

1. A method for managing workflow for an application, comprising:
 - obtaining an application adapter associated with the application, wherein the application adapter specifies a sub-task;
 - monitoring the application to obtain a state; and
 - performing an action associated with the sub-task, if the state is associated with the sub-task.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - authenticating a user; and
 - retrieving a profile associated with the user, if the user is authenticated, wherein the profile comprises the application adapter.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the profile is an single sign-on profile.
4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - generating the application adapter; and
 - associating the application adapter with the profile.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein generating the application adapter comprises:
 - selecting a task;
 - specifying the sub-task associated with the task;
 - specifying a means for recording the state associated with the sub-task;
 - recording the state using the means for recording the state;
 - specifying the action to perform when the state associated with the sub-task is encountered; and
 - generating the application adapter using the state associated with the sub-task and the action.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the application adapter comprises an initialization portion and a script portion.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the script portion comprises the action.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein the means for recording the associated state comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of auto-state configuration mechanism and manual-state configuration mechanism.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein performing the action comprises passing a local parameter to the application.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the sub-task is associated with a task.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the task is at least one selected from the group consisting of a pre-login task, a login task, a post-login task, a logout task, and a pre-termination task.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the sub-task comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of a pre-state setting, the action, and a post-state setting.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the sub-task comprises a dynamic variable.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the action comprises functionality to use the dynamic variable to navigate the user to a particular point in the application.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the action comprises functionality to navigate the user to a particular point in the application.
16. The method of claim 1, where in the application adapter is interpreted using an application adapter runtime.

17. A system for managing workflow for an application, comprising:
 - an application, wherein the application comprises a state;
 - an application adapter configured to define an action associated with the state; and
 - an application adapter runtime configured to monitor the application and perform the action when the state is encountered.
18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:
 - an authentication infrastructure configured to authenticate a user and retrieve a profile associated with the user when the user is authenticated, wherein the profile comprises the application adapter.
19. The system of claim 18, wherein the profile is an single sign-on profile.
20. The system of claim 18, further comprising:
 - a database configured to store the profile.
21. The system of claim 17, wherein the action is associated with a sub-task.
22. The system of claim 21, wherein the sub-task comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of a pre-state and a post-state.
23. The system of claim 22, wherein the sub-task comprises a dynamic variable.
24. The system of claim 23, wherein the action is configured to use the dynamic variable to navigate the user to a particular point in the application.
25. The system of claim 17, wherein the sub-task is associated with a task.
26. The system of claim 25, wherein the task is at least one selected from the group consisting of a pre-login task, a login task, a post-login task, a logout task, and a pre-termination task.

27. The method of claim 17, wherein the action is configured to navigate the user to a particular point in the application.
28. The system of claim 17, wherein the application adapter comprises an initialization portion and a script portion.
29. The system of claim 28, wherein the script portion comprises the action.
30. The system of claim 17, wherein the state comprises at least one application selected from the group consisting of text, window title, parent and child windows, and control IDs.